

# Hungary

## I. Magyars & Tziganes of To-Day

By F. H. Hamilton

Writer and Traveller

**A**LONE among the nations of Europe the Hungarians, or as they prefer to be called, the Magyars, have kept up the structure of medieval society, or rather the structure of society into which that of the Middle Ages developed. What rural England was in the eighteenth century, when it was described for us by Addison, in his *Sir Roger de Coverley* essays in the "Spectator," Hungary still is to-day. There is the same dependence upon agriculture. There is the same separation of classes, which does not prevent the magnate or the squire from being on excellent terms with the farmers and peasants. There is the same simplicity of outlook upon life.

The Magyar magnates, it is true, have been influenced ("corrupted," the purists say) by their life in Vienna, by their habit of travel, by the readiness with which they pick up foreign, especially English, ways. But the class next to them, the lesser nobility, what we may call the squires or the county families, have been mostly too poor to change their traditional mode of living. They have maintained the feudal aspect of social

relations. Originally all who owned land were "nobles," and helped to put armies into the field by sending one or more knights at the king's call, or by contributing to the outfit of one. In return for this service they were excused from the payment of taxes, and they enjoyed this exemption up to 1848, a curious relic of bygone feudalism. In that year the squires determined to surrender their privilege, but the magnates would not give it up until it was taken from them.

Nor have the magnates yet abandoned the wearing of their traditional costumes, which make them look as if they were go-

ing to a fancy dress ball in some family costume kept carefully in an old chest with lavender and rosemary. These are, of course, kept for ceremonial occasions; but there is no disposition to fall in with the general disposition elsewhere to regard such finery as antiquated, and to leave dressing-up to children. It was partly because the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister in 1914 was known to the world by a photograph taken in his Magyar magnate's dress that the world refused to take him seriously, and instinctively



VESTAL VIRGIN OF HUNGARY

On the eve of marriage, clothed thus in spotless raiment, she is expected, by custom, to spend a day and night before the village altar worshipping the Holy Virgin.

Photo, Kankovskyy, Budapest

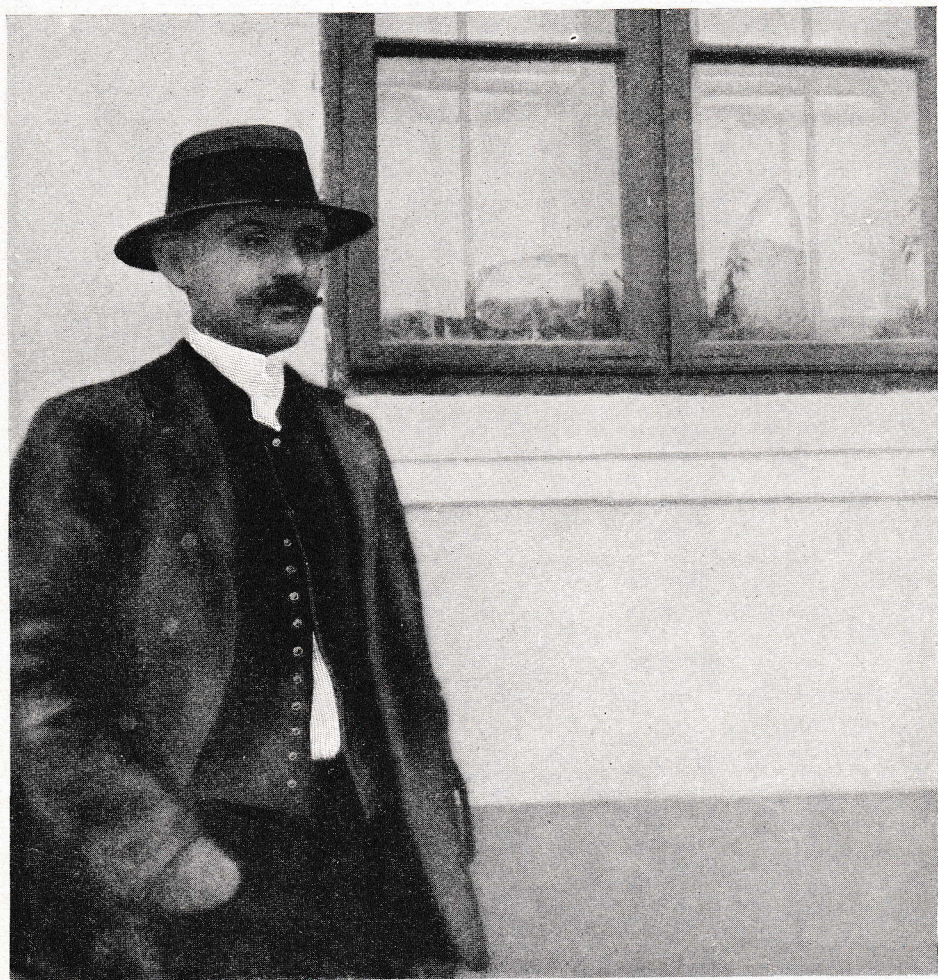


## HUNGARY & THE HUNGARIANS

sympathised with Serbia in the quarrel over the murder of the Archduke Ferdinand. Any kind of uniform is dear to the Magyar mind. No such variety of military equipment was ever seen to compare with that which amused the visitor to Budapest during the early years of Admiral Horthy's "reign." It seemed as if every officer one met must have designed his own kit, and tried to outdo all the rest in elegance and originality.

Next to the squires come the members of the professional class, very few in

number, the business men, not more numerous, and the shopkeepers in the towns. This section is made up largely of Jews, and the feeling between Magyars and Jews, which had improved during the period before the Great War, has become dangerously bitter again. There is in the country a long and evil record of persecution. Not until the end of the eighteenth century were Jews admitted to the right of voting, and then they were subjected in many places to an odious form of derision. An Imperial decree allowed them to



### SWEETHEARTS LINKED BY SWEET SYMBOLISM

Large lumps of sugarloaf are displayed in the window of a girl-vintager's house in the Baja district on the Danube to signify the fact that she has become engaged. These sweet emblems of affection are not usually removed from view until the marriage has been celebrated, and the arrival of the rustic lover at his lady's home would indicate that the course of their true love is running smoothly

*Photo, Kankovszky, Budapest*





#### THE WOMAN AT THE WELL, A FAVOURITE TRYSTING-PLACE

In a hamlet not far distant from Kalocsa this well is the most popular of institutions. In the driest of seasons its waters never fail, for, as in many a Danube region, the supply is drawn from that grand old river which, to some extent, makes up for Hungary's lack of seaboard. If this wooden wheel could speak, it would relate countless happy stories of rustic lovers

*Photo, Kankovszky, Budapest*

take German names in place of their own Hebrew names. Very many were ticketed with their nicknames, often opprobrious, given them by their Magyar neighbours. Thus one would be called Redhead, and another the Fire-extinguisher, and another the Knocker. These and many such surnames exist to this day, perhaps altered in spelling, but recalling the time when the Jew was an object of contempt and derision.

The revival of these feelings, with fear added, is due partly to the capture of commerce by the Jews, partly to the bitter resentment aroused by the short Bolshevik experiment in Hungary, which was directed mainly by Jewish

revolutionaries. Since there existed no middle class when the country began to come within the orbit of the European trade system, and since the nobles would have nothing to do with trade, the Jews had it all their own way. They took to business with alacrity, and soon had pretty well all of it in their hands. This turned the aristocracy against them, and they naturally struggled against this ill-will by making the most of the power which money gave them. They went into politics, their influence became noticeable everywhere.

Most of those who have made the art, learning, and science of Hungary known outside its borders have belonged to this race. They have the lowest





### FEMININE CONFIDENCE FLAUNTING IN FROCKS AND FRILLS

She comes down the steps with a splendid swagger, born of proud consciousness that her frock is proof against the criticism of any envious woman, and that her face and figure will compel the admiration of any man. Physically not unlike a Turk, this woman is of the semi-Oriental Hungarian aboriginal stock, and belongs to the district of Sarköz, about fifty miles from the junction of the Danube and the Drave





#### PAUSING FOR FRIENDLY CONVERSE AFTER CHURCH SERVICE

After attending church these Hungarian women, in their voluminous black garb, find it pleasing to relax a little and chat together before wending their several ways back to home. Perhaps they are discussing the sermon, and the little girl in white stands listening to the enlightened opinions of her elders. The façade of the building from which they have just emerged can be seen in the background

*Photo, Kankovszky, Budapest*



## HUNGARY & THE HUNGARIANS



### LORD OR HENCHMAN?

With his manly, upright figure, energetic appearance and handsome costume, he might well pass for the Mayor of Debreczen, whose worthy coachman he happens to be

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*

percentage of illiterates among them, the Evangelical Protestants coming close after, with the Roman Catholics some distance behind, and the Orthodox (Eastern Church) out of the running. It is unfortunate that "Christian" should in Hungary mean anti-Jewish, for although the Jews are only about five per cent. of the nation, they include half the doctors, engineers, and lawyers. The "Christian" parties proclaim their hostility to liberty of speech and the Press; they favour the policy of the heavy hand upon all who advocate change. These are the views which triumphed as the result of the excesses of

the Red Terror. The White Terror which followed was just as bloodthirsty, but it was regarded as a justifiable reprisal.

Under the reign of Admiral Horthy the small landowners controlled Parliament, and "Christian Nationalists" held the greater number of Cabinet offices. Admiral Horthy had all the simplicity of the Magyar squire, therefore he seemed to this class to be well qualified to rule. His conceptions of



### IN THE HUNGARIAN HIGHLANDS

Barefoot she wanders at will on the verdant hillside, her fingers never at rest. In simple guise, Hungary has cherished many an ancient industry

*Photo, Florence Farmborough*





#### COOPERATION IN JELLY MAKING AT CZINKOTA

They are making plum jelly, an almost universal task in Hungarian villages in the autumn, husband and wife taking turns at stirring the jelly, which must be kept up continuously for twenty-four hours. At first sight the husband seems to be wearing the petticoats which his wife might have donned with advantage, but in fact they are trousers cut very wide and loose

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*



## HUNGARY & THE HUNGARIANS

politics were childish. He would declare, for example, that he was in favour of a free Press, and then go on instantly to say that "of course anyone who published anything hurtful to the country must be severely punished." That kind of "freedom" seemed right to the minds of the peasants as well as to those of the squires. The peasants supported Horthy, therefore, and opposed the return of the ex-Emperor



YOUNG MATRON OF MEZÖKÖVESD

On her head is a floral coronet, the symbol of the newly-married woman, which tradition decrees that each wife must wear for a year after marriage

Photo, A. W. Culler

Karl Hapsburg because the revolution had given them land and because they grudged the money spent on keeping up an Imperial Court.

This shows that the Hungarians are "realists" in political affairs; they

think more of their interests than of traditions. Half the nation belongs to the Roman Catholic Church, and that Church would have been glad to see the Hapsburgs in power again. But the peasants shook their heads shrewdly, and without their support no attempt at restoration could be anything but a failure. Calvinism is fairly strong, and perhaps the sturdy independence which that faith fosters has had some effect even upon those who remain in the Catholic fold. It is not practised gloomily, it puts no ban upon enjoyment. If it did that, it could never have gained any hold upon the cheerful Magyars. After Sunday services there are village dances; these take place even under the church walls, and the pastors raise no indignant protest.

The Magyar capital, as the town of Debreczen (Debreschen) is called, is also known as "Rome of the Calvinists," and here is the centre of the Reformed religion. This is in truth a "city of the plain." You drive straight out of it on to the vast dusty level puszta, three hundred square miles of it the finest pasture in Europe, where countless cattle and sheep and horses are raised, not to mention pigs and chickens. With immense wheat and maize fields as well, Hungary can do far more than support itself in the way of food. Everywhere the bread is fine and white, butter abounds, meat is cheap; only in the slums of Budapest does one see anything like oppressive poverty.

The cowboys, the shepherds, the horse-breeders, are all of them worth study. They have their own customs and costumes, their own traditions and methods of life. The coats they wear are of rough sheepskin, worn with the fleece inside as soon as the cold weather begins. They spend most of their time in the open, but slip off whenever they can to the inns of the plain to eat and drink by the warmth of a fire, and to make love to the first woman they come across. The Magyar is a great lover, he makes an art of courtship. Much as they admire the English, the Hungarians cannot understand what they



# RURAL HUNGARY

## *Magyars In Rich Attire*



*These are no young priests in costly ecclesiastical vestments, but mere peasant lads of Mezökövesd in their ordinary Sunday garments*

Photo, A. W. Cutler





*En route to market these Hungarian housewives indulge in a confidential chat ; the geese half suspect that it closely concerns them*

Photo, A. W. Cutler





*Peacefully they pass their days in a sequestered village of the Hungarian Lowlands, recking nothing of the weal and woe of urban life*

Photo, A. W. Cutler





*Their country is the world, Hungary a chosen home. Of rare beauty the gypsy lass is versed in every wile liable to distract the heart of man*

Photo, A. W. Cutler





*By means of the crudely-fashioned crucifix and his supplicatory lament, this crafty old beggar of Hungary harvests many a coveted coin*

Photo, A. W. Cutler





*An Hungarian wife's industry is well illustrated in the family wardrobe. Her rich embroideries on aprons and shirts give to these home-made garments an impression brilliant in the extreme*

Photo. A. W. Cutler





*Unique but effective is this headdress, with a cone-shaped basketwork structure enveloped in a florid silken kerchief, but fashion-mongers are unknown in Mezőkövesd, the home of these stately young dames*

Photo, A. W. Cutler





*This boy and girl of Csömör display their Slovak origin in their distinctive attire and attitude, characteristic of an old Slav dance*





*Sturdy of frame and serene of face, she is an embodiment of the robust rural scenery adjoining Lake Balaton where her lines are set*

Photo, Underwood Press Service





*A lowly Magyar couple, but in their rustic romance a medieval princess bidding her lover godspeed as he sets forth on knight-errantry*





*The embroidered bolster of this Mezőkövesd baby is a fantastic garden  
of silken blossoms reared by the Matyó mother's patient skill*





*Headman of one of the cowherd stations on the Hortobágy Plain, he is looked up to as a demi-god by his company of lively young herdsmen*

Photo, A. W. Cutler





*Far from the world dwells King Cowherd ; his palace—a rude reed-shelter, his kingdom—the infinite expanse of the great Hortobágy Plain*

Photo, A. W. Cutler





*Full of animation and colour is this courtyard of a Magyar peasant home, where to the lusty acclamation of small maidens a big sister shyly treads the mazy steps of the Csárdás, the Hungarian national dance*





*Pedigree peasants are numerous among the Matyók people, many of whom can trace their families back to the 13th century. In their houses and resplendent costumes ancestral influence still holds its own*





*On the occasion of a fancy-dress dance, the well-to-do, town-bred daughters of Hungary delight to discard prevailing modes and to don the costumes worn by their lovely-born sisters in the remote countryside*



## HUNGARY & THE HUNGARIANS

call the coldness of the Anglo-Saxon. They themselves are temperamentally inflammable, they slide from one great passion into another with rapturous delight. This helps to explain their delight in music. Nowhere else does the "concord of sweet sounds" have so palpable and so complete an influence. Nowhere else could one imagine a Prime Minister dancing by himself to the strains of a Tzigane band for hours on end. That was a practice of Count Tisza's; no one thought it in the least odd.

Where the Tziganes, or Gypsies, came from exactly is matter of dispute still. They are certainly of East Indian origin, and they seem to have made their appearance in Hungary some 400 years ago. They wandered about, making music for a living, and they have gone on doing that ever since. If you see a band of them in a fashionable restaurant in the capital, they look clean and smart in their evening clothes; though the leader, who both leads and plays the violin, will probably have long hair with a good deal of oil in its curly blackness. Hire a company to play in a private room or, better still, go to a Tzigane village, and you will see what they are like in their natural state. The children are lovely little ragamuffins; their black eyes glitter with an unearthly fascination, their black curls enforce the charm, their dusky limbs are perfectly formed and can be seen to perfection, since their clothing is of the scantiest. Until they are between twenty and thirty the Tziganes, men and women both, keep something of the beauty of their childhood. Then it fades rapidly into



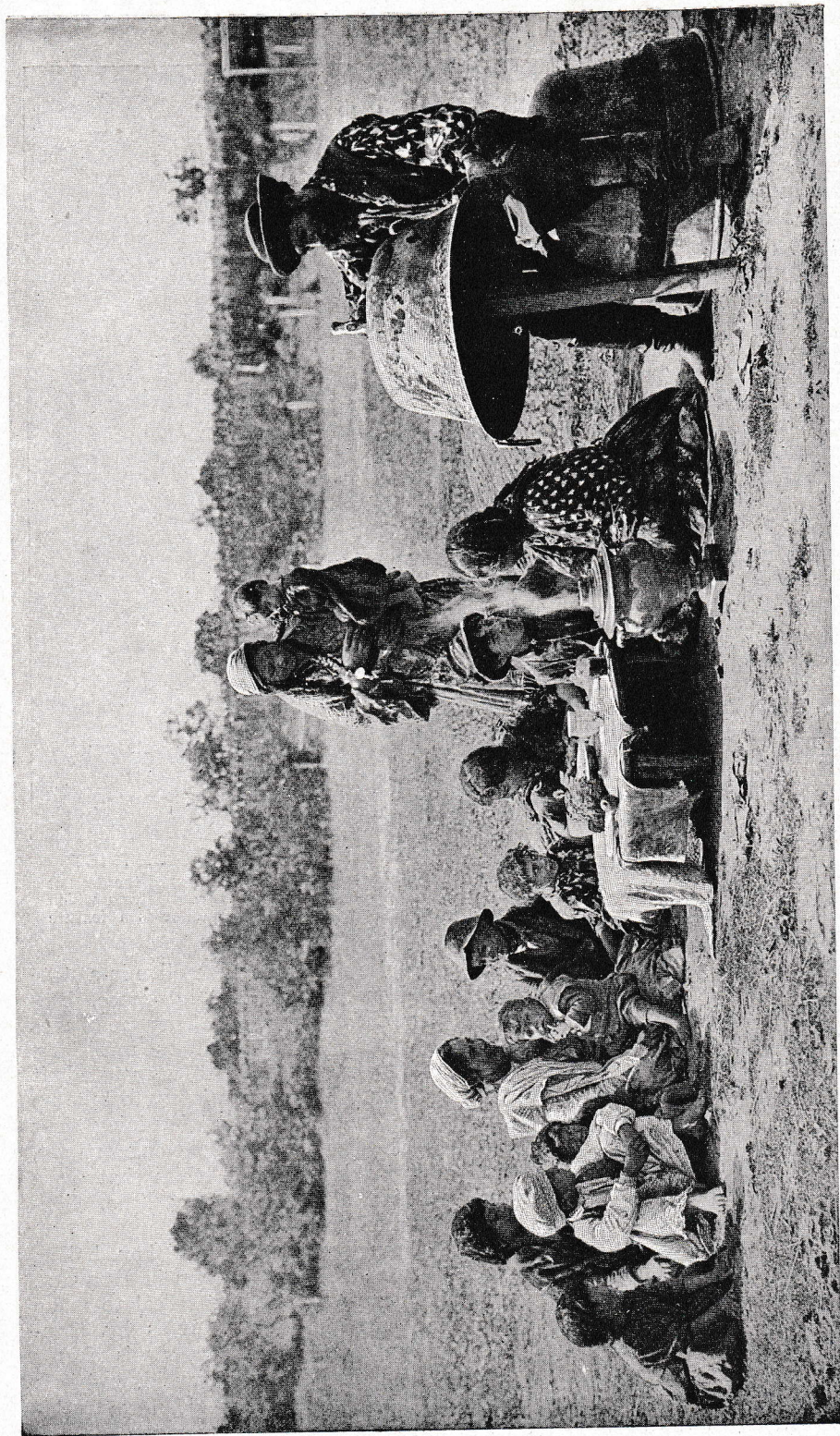
BRIDAL PAIR FROM THE SARKÖZ DISTRICT

There are still in Hungary some racial reminders of the days of Turkish invasion in the shape of a semi-Oriental strain which persists in this particular region. The crinoline is a feature of the bridal attire

an unlovely decay. They live in a state of indescribable dirt, ignorance, laziness and contentment. They are thieves by profession as well as musicians, though it is only fair to them to admit that they have begun lately to take up more creditable ways of gaining their livelihood than begging, telling fortunes, and picking up any trifles that come within reach of their long, lithe, olive-coloured hands.

Though there are less than half a million of these strangers in Hungary, they have done a great deal to make the country famous. It is by Hungarian music that Hungary is chiefly known throughout the world, and it is the Tziganes who have given it a world-wide popularity. There seems to have been always a musical strain in the





GYPSY PATERFAMILIAS ENGAGED IN THE FAVOURITE PURSUIT OF MENDING A FAMILY CAULDRON

The gypsies are believed to have come over to Europe early in the Middle Ages, and their appearance and the structure of their language would prove them to be undoubtedly of East Indian origin. Like all their kinsfolk, the Hungarian gypsies seem to have a horror of a sedentary life, and are ever on the move. The men, when they care to work, show great skill as tinkers and metal-workers, and as menders of the large iron pots used in the making of preserves, of which Hungarians are very fond





# VAGABOND SONS OF HUNGARY WHOSE MUSICAL CAPABILITIES HAVE BROUGHT FAME TO THEIR FOSTER-COUNTRY

Through the wandering gypsies of the fourteenth century, dance music became popular in Hungary. Greatly sought after at weddings and special functions of the lower classes, the Hungarian gypsy bands also found entrance into the palatial homes of the nobles and the wealthy, and their popularity has never decreased.

Dominic Kálmán, who acquired great fame in the sixteenth century as a violinist, was one of these gypsy nomads

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*



## HUNGARY & THE HUNGARIANS

Magyar temperament. The instruments with which the people of the Great Plain beguile their long hours have a very long ancestry. The tilinko (flute), which the shepherd or the cowboy will pull out and play when he feels joyful or melancholy, and the lute, which is played in the villages to-day, were used in very early times. The violin was, however, probably introduced by the gypsies, and that is the instrument which has done everything to carry Hungarian music into all lands.

It is the alternation of wild, reckless delight with slow, sad, thoughtful, measured cadences that gives the czárdás or inn dances their fascination, and these effects could be obtained from no orchestral combination save strings. As one listens to them one is inclined to think that the violin was invented for such contrasts, and that it ought to be used for Tzigane music alone. Upon the Magyars this music has a positively intoxicating influence. There is some beat in their blood



### MONEYED MEMBERS OF A TRIBE OF THE WANDERING FOOT

The climate and fertile lowlands of Hungary are especially congenial to the gypsy, and many of these vagrants amass much wealth from their diversified pursuits in this country. They are all extremely fond of gaudy colours and glittering ornaments. The big silver buttons displayed on the man's coat weigh several ounces each, and can be purchased from him only at a fabulous price

*Photo, A. W. Cuiller*





#### FAMILY TRIO ARRAYED IN ITS BRIGHTEST AND BEST

The vivid colouring of many of Hungary's wonderful costumes relieves the monotony of more than one drab town thoroughfare. In the country, where these bright hues accord so well with the clearness of the atmosphere and the beauty of the landscape, they are particularly gratifying to the eye. The Mezökövesd mother stands second to none in her skilful blending of lively colours

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*

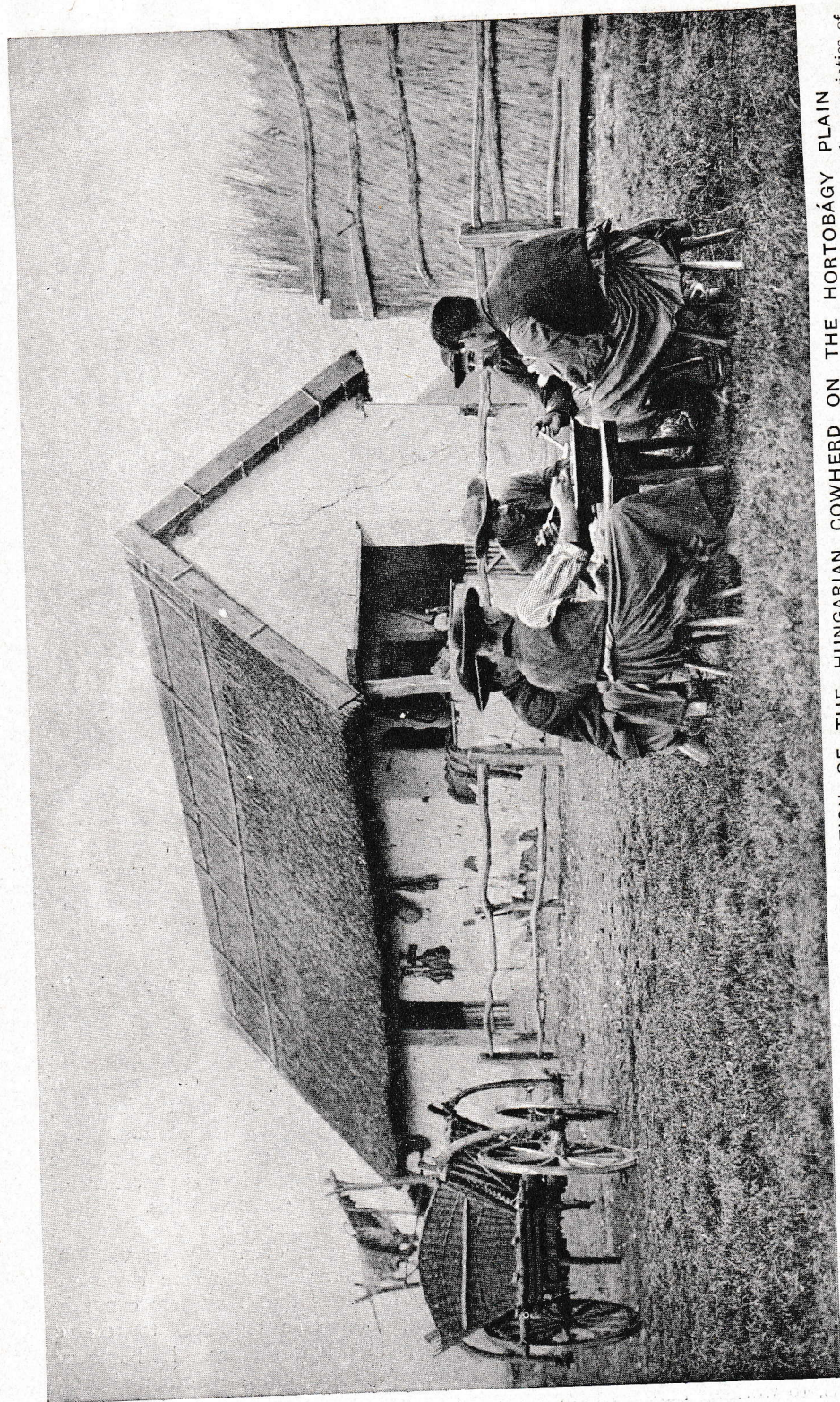
which responds to it; it has a meaning for them which can be but dimly discerned by other nationalities. This is symptomatic of a more elemental nature than any which can be found among the peoples of Europe farther west.

Hungary is the gateway of the East. Beneath a veneer of Western civilization and convenience one comes quickly to the essential Eastern character below. The Magyars are like the Arabs—they are never insignificant. Tall and graceful in figure, moving with an indolent ease, they would rather ride than walk (which is true of the Arabs again), they would prefer wasting time elegantly, if that were possible in all seasons, to working hard. In the short

summer this is utterly impossible for those who work the land. From sunrise to sunset they must labour—that is to say, from between three and four in the morning until after eight at night. After this effort they seem exhausted, nor can one be surprised at that. Yet they are never too tired to welcome strangers. Hospitality is another of their Eastern characteristics.

In all countries where the distances between towns, even between villages, are considerable, and where there are very few inns that travellers can rely upon, there is a readiness to receive guests in private homes. In Hungary the word "readiness" does not sufficiently describe that kindly desire to be





THE EVENING MEAL AT A PRAIRIE STATION OF THE HUNGARIAN COWHERD ON THE HORTOBÁGY PLAIN

The great plain of the Hungarian lowlands is the heart of Hungary and the home of the bulk of the genuine Magyar herdsmen. There are three varieties of herdsmen who live on this vast flat land, which, like a calm ocean, stretches away into infinity—the horseherd, the cowherd, and the shepherd. The stations of the cowherd, or gulyás, are dotted at wide intervals about the plain, and the life lived in these solitary domiciles is simple and primitive in the extreme

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*





#### LEISURE HOUR OF THE HUNGARIAN COWHERD

Glimpses of modern civilization find their way now and then into the remote solitudes of the Hortobágy Plain, and while the cattle are housed in the byres, the cowboys gather round the gramophone and, with rapt attention, listen to Hungarian songs sung by famous artistes in far-away cities, rumours of which float across to these lonely prairie-dwellers like fairy-tales from another world

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*

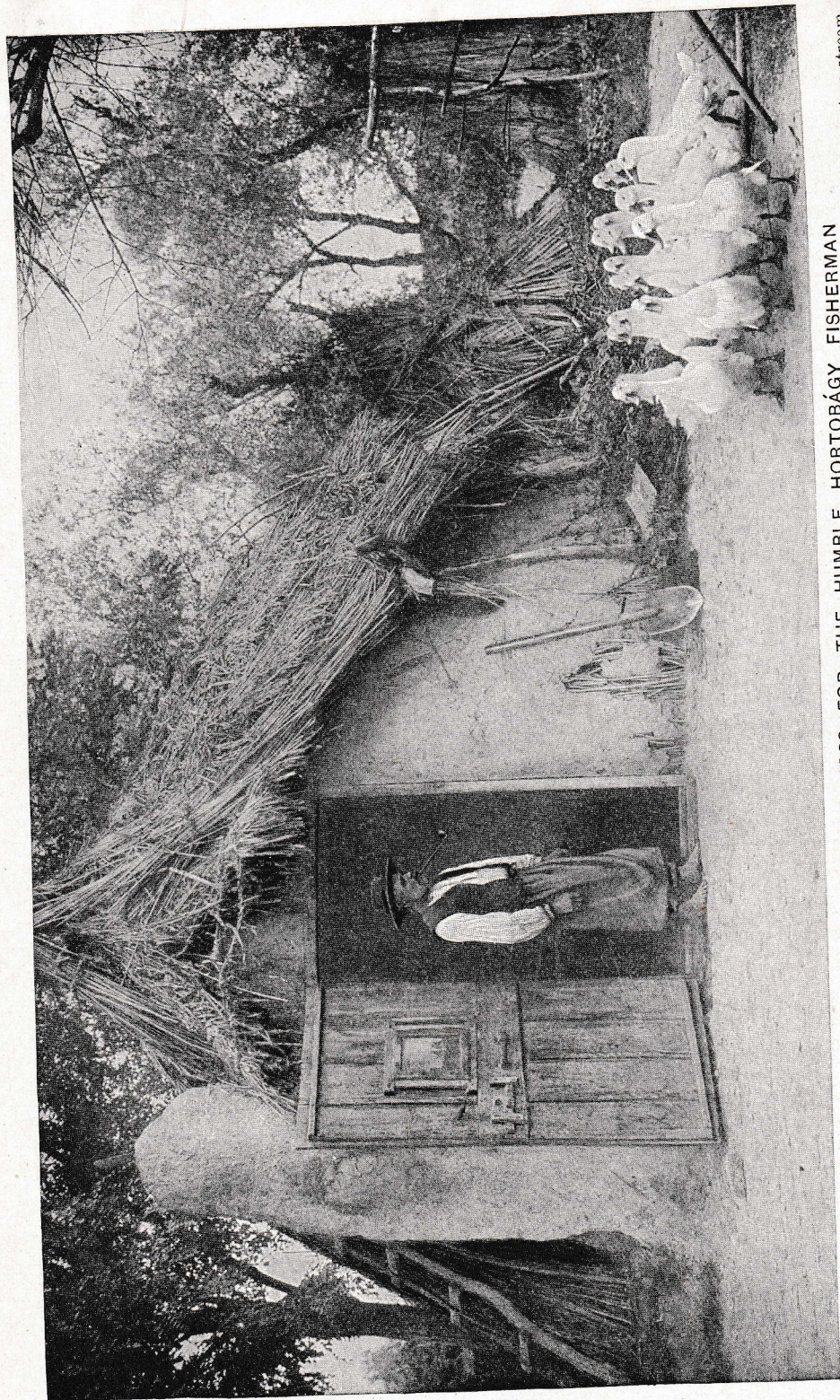
of service to the foreigner which is so universal and so pleasant to recollect. The Magyar regards hospitality not merely as a duty, but as a pleasure; he is an enthusiastic host, the best he has is put at the stranger's disposal; he considers no expense or trouble too great for the foreigner's entertainment.

The salutation so common, "Ista hozott" (God has brought you here), is a literal expression of the feeling in a Magyar heart when a guest presents himself. If it be summer, staying in Hungarian homes, whether they are nobles' castles or squires' manor-houses or peasants' farms, is delightful. In

cold weather the closed windows and the rooms filled with smoke may be found uncomfortable. Not even the sacred duties of a host can overcome the Hungarian dislike of open windows and fear of fresh air. It may be, also, that the eating and drinking will be too plentiful for those who are not accustomed to such profusion. The cleanliness which is found among all true Magyars will, however, be most comforting, and will make up for any shortcomings in other directions.

Mr. Foster Bovill, in his valuable study of "Hungary and the Hungarians," tells how he was struck by



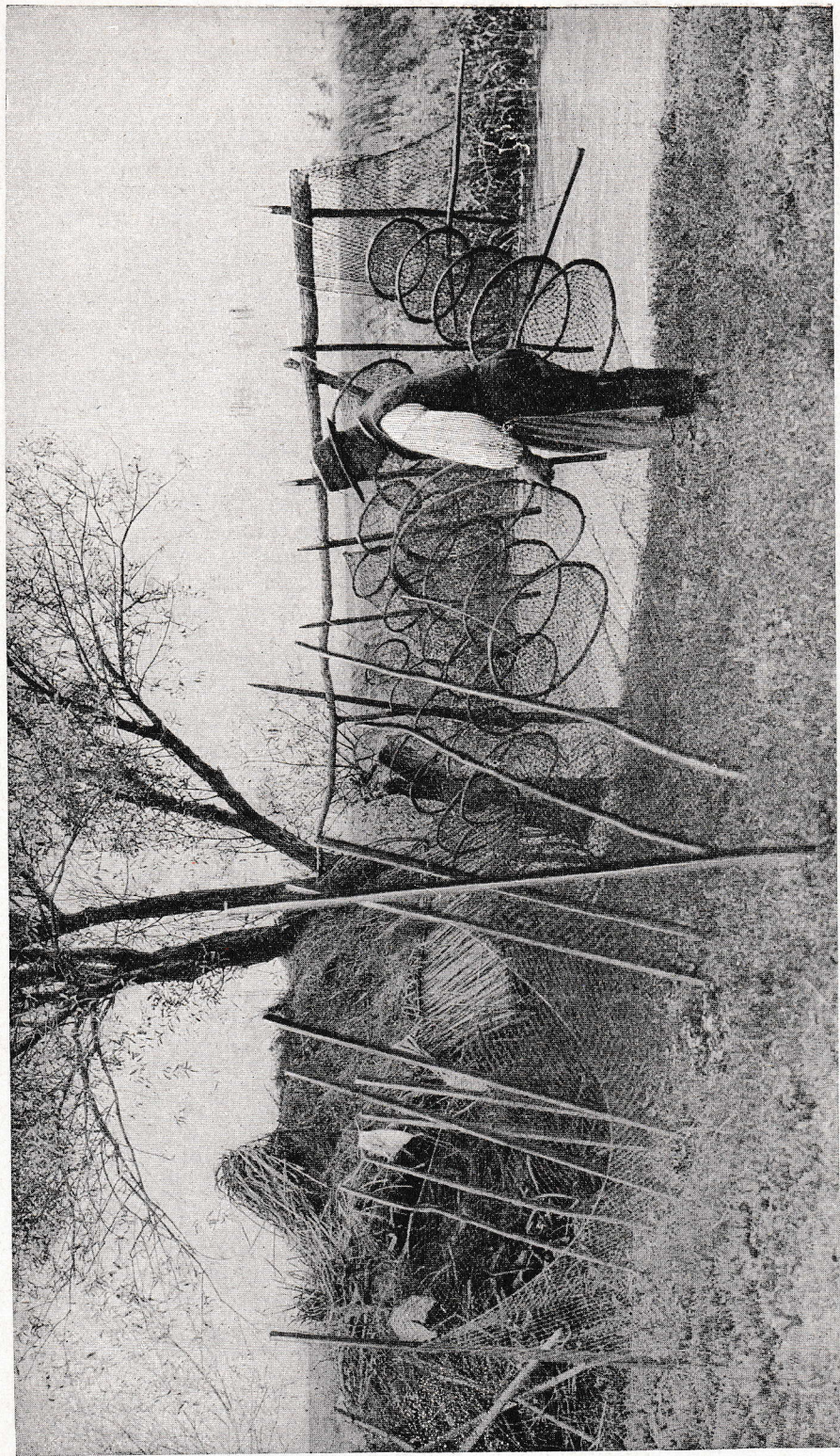


GEESSE THAT LAY THE GOLDEN EGGS FOR THE HUMBLE HORTOBÁGY FISHERMAN

This tumble-down home, made of adobe and thatched with reeds and straw, is one of many situated on the borders of the Hortobágy river, the serpentine stream that meanders over the surface of the plain of the same name, on which vast expanse of flat country—300 square miles—great herds of cattle have their grazing-ground. This fisherman takes much pride in his family of geese, which are allowed to wander daily about the plain under the vigilant care of a young goosegirl.

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*





PREPARATIONS FOR A FISHING EXPEDITION DISPLAYED ON A BANK OF THE HORTOBÁGY RIVER

Preparations are begun some days before the expedition, for the fisherman knows that success depends largely on the condition of his nets and traps. He is a man of many trades, and ekes out a by no means unpleasant subsistence manufacturing brooms, plating mats, and making baskets of rushes and osiers. Sobriety and honesty mark his uneventful days. The spirit of the Hungarian lowlands is his spirit; the same absolute straightness and the same tactfulness characterise both

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*



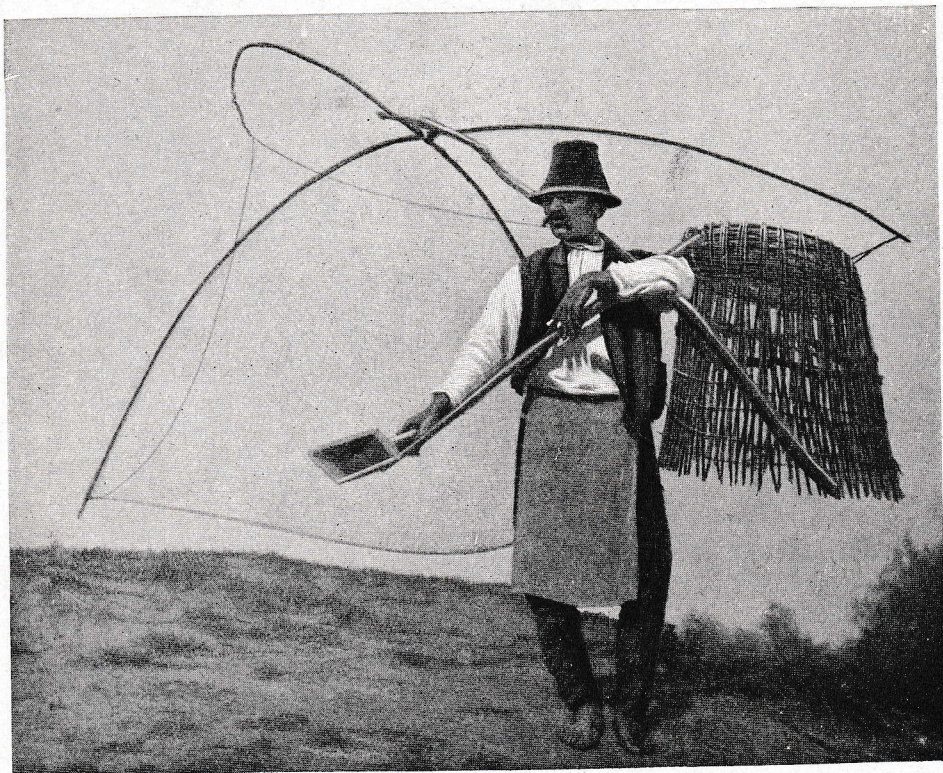
## HUNGARY & THE HUNGARIANS

two features of an institution specially for young offenders which he visited some years ago in the town of Kassa. These two things were "the daily use of the tooth-brush and the neat folding of the clothes every night." The Magyars are a clean folk, like the Finns, to whom they are related, both being descended from Asiatic stock, as may be seen in both countries by the prevalence of slightly oblique eyes and eyebrows, with cheekbones set rather high. They have not, however, cut themselves loose yet from their Oriental character, as the Finns have done.

Among the higher aristocracy the outward habits of life are those of the West. Knowledge of French, English, and German is usual. English clothes are worn by the men. It is enough to label anything in a shop-window "English" to make it popular at

once. Many of the oldest and richest Hungarian families have been well known and warmly liked in England for a great many years past. They have been familiar figures on English racecourses, for they are as fond of horses and of racing as the British aristocracy in whose country houses they used to be regular guests. But their ideas, when they are at home, are not those of the twentieth century. Duelling, which has died out almost everywhere else, killed by commonsense and ridicule, is still a custom of Hungarian nobles. There is an Anti-Duelling League, and there is a law which makes the duel technically illegal; but it is not by any means rigidly enforced.

With a mentality which can tolerate such an anachronism as this, the Magyar aristocrats could hardly be expected to hold other than antiquated views



HOME-MADE FISHING TACKLE OF THE HUNGARIAN PEASANT

Parallel to the Bakony Forest lies Lake Balaton, Hungary's largest lake, some fifty miles in length and ten miles in width. It is a shallow lake, its depths not exceeding thirteen feet, is fed by springs, and has its outlet to the Danube by the Sio. Here the fisherman reaps a moderate harvest of fish, and in the surrounding marshy shorelands may collect many eggs and young wild fowl

*Photo, Underwood Press Service*





#### PAYING HIS RESPECTS AT THE PARENTAL PORTAL

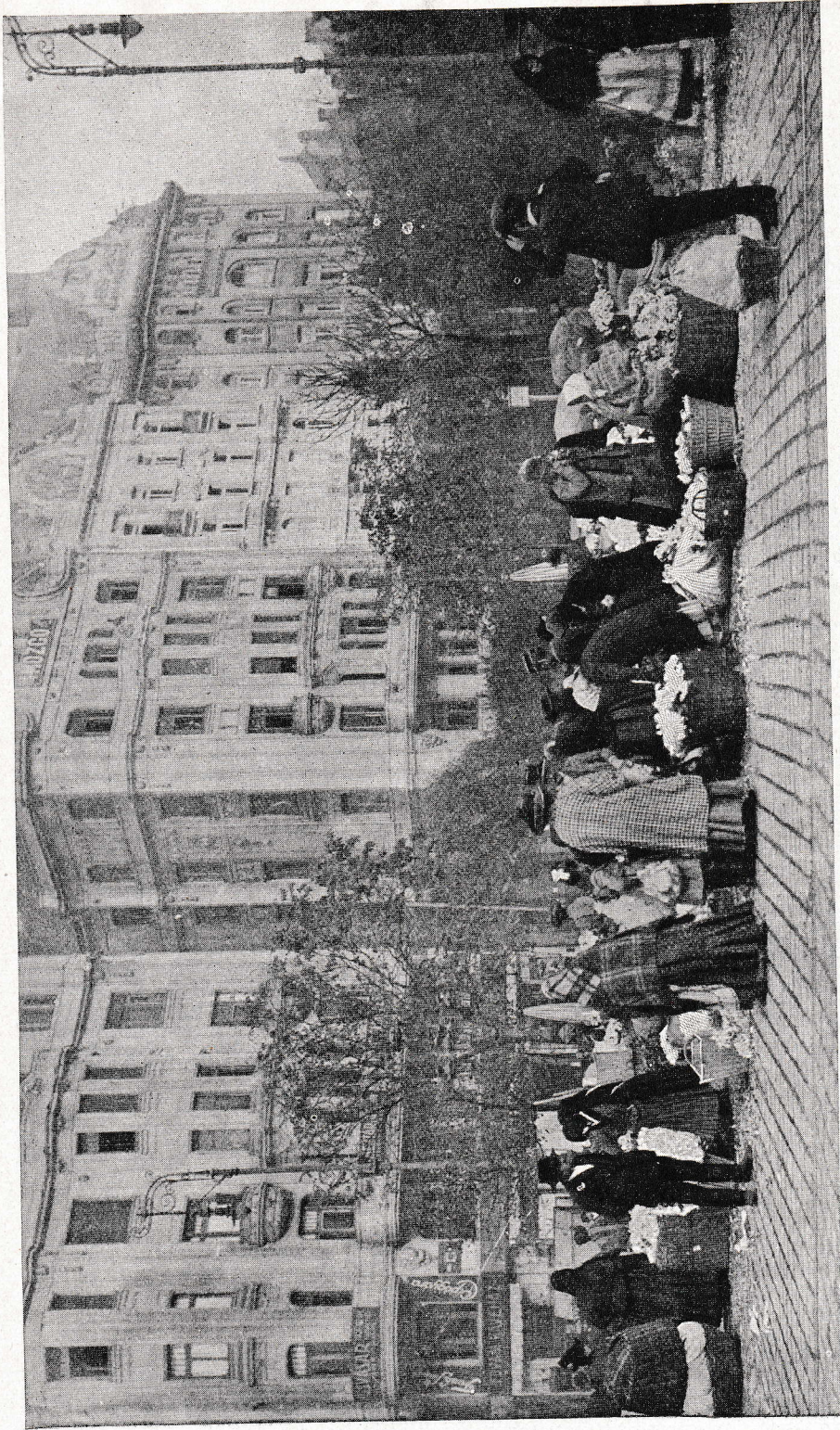
Courtesy, that charming characteristic of the Hungarian, is eloquently portrayed in this photograph, where a gallant of some ten summers is seen kissing the hand of a juvenile guest with all the grace of a courtier. The hand of a lady is usually kissed on arrival and departure, and this custom is observed even among the children, just as in the matter of dress young and old wear similar fashions

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*

as to the relation of landlord and tenant. For a long period there was a steady drain of peasants to the United States, the number rising sometimes as high as 150,000 a year. The people in the country are better off than they were, but the process of breaking up the huge estates of the magnates is still regarded as a step essential to the contentment of the people.

With feudal notions about landholding went a wide and unfortunate gulf between capital and labour. More than four-fifths of the working population are engaged in farming; the remainder, who sought their living in the towns had a hard and hungry time to go through in the early days of Hungary's industrial development. This only began about the last decade of





#### BUDAPEST AND ITS GREAT MARKET OF FLOWERS

An Hungarian institution—affecting numbers of people—is responsible for a great display of floral beauty every year at the market place of the capital. On All Saints' Day, Nov. 1, crowds throng this fine tree-grown square, and the baskets are emptied of their beautiful contents. Then those who have lost loved ones make their way to the cemeteries, which break forth in wreaths and garlands, while, when night comes, special illuminations light up the macabre scene

*Photo, A. W. Culler*





# SHOPPING DAY IN THE OPEN-AIR MARKET QUARTER OF THE TOWN OF DEBRECZEN

Those who buy and sell here have learnt to dispense with stalls for the wares and are content to inspect and display goods on the ground. Chickens are the principal kind of stock on sale in this particular street, and the long lines of women who are vending them sit facing each other while the public walks between. The woman carrying a child on her back is a beggar who hopes to arouse for herself and her burden the sympathy of the spending crowd

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*





### BRAVE HEARTS AND STRONG

A happy sunlit scene is this where man and wife—simple Hungarian country folk—with glad hearts and faces work side by side in the fruitful fields. Little is necessary to satisfy their wants; they are contented with their lot, and never despair, even when the soil in its intractability fails to yield the crop which shall secure for them a meagre subsistence

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*

the nineteenth century. Until then the Hungarians had depended largely upon other countries, chiefly upon Austria, for factory products. Their own industries were of the small home-worker kind, sufficient for a sparse population, but inadequate when the country began to fill up. Between the beginning and end of the nineteenth century the nation increased from six millions to sixteen.

If the natural course had been followed, and Hungarian manufactures had been taken in hand as they were

in other countries by a native-born middle-class, it is probable that the workers would have had better treatment. For there is in the Magyar nature a kindliness and a sense of comradeship which keep relations surprisingly sweet between magnate or squire and the children of the soil. These qualities would come into play in the factories also if they had been built and equipped and managed by natives. But the Government, seeing, perhaps, that the Magyars were



## HUNGARY & THE HUNGARIANS.

neither inclined nor fitted for such enterprises, did all it could to encourage foreigners to start them. Then it soon had to intervene to protect the workers. As early as 1891 an Insurance Fund was established by law, which gave sick pay, provided doctoring and medicine, with confinement allowances for married women, and a sum to pay funeral expenses in case of death. To this fund both employers and employed were bound to subscribe. It was not until many years later, the Hungarians are fond of pointing out, that such insurance was introduced in England.

Since the Great War, all who can use their hands have been better off in Hungary than those who depended on their brains for their livelihood. The disastrous drop in the purchasing power of the currency reduced many who had

been in easy circumstances to poverty, which made it difficult for them even to exist. All who subsisted on fixed incomes from investments or house property, all who lived on pensions, all who were engaged in teaching, all who did clerical work of the simpler kind, found that sums which had served to keep them in comfort before scarcely enabled them to pay for a poor lodging and for just enough food to keep them alive.

This has been a damaging blow to the recently formed middle class, especially to the Magyar element in it, which has not proved itself so ingenious as the Jewish element in discovering ways of escape from utter ruin. All who possess land and can cultivate it are prosperous, all who can undertake manual labour are pretty sure of a good



HUNGARIAN BEGGARS RESTING UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE

The hedge-side makes a welcome resting-place, and the woman sucks consolation from her huge pipe, with a glance between puffs at her lord and master as he munches the few tomatoes he has managed to get. Her dress is a medley of oddments; his boots seem, so to speak, on their last legs. They have chosen the tramps' road and find in it consolations for its penalties

Photo, A. W. Cutler





# **"WAITING ON BUSINESS": HUNGARIAN PEDLAR**

His gaunt, familiar figure is often seen outside the central station of Budapest, where he may be heard expounding the fine qualities of his thousand and one gimcracks which make appeal to the eyes of the passing pedestrians. Judging from his trim appearance he is doing well, and the neat, symmetrical knee-patches would suggest that a thrifty housewife exists not far off in the background

*Photo, A. W. Culler*





#### KALOCSA WOMAN OF MANY ARTS AND CRAFTS

A pleasant-mannered people, the peasants of Kalocsa have many admirable attributes, and their hospitality is specially noteworthy. During the summer months some of the women find employment in the surrounding country places, where they undertake manual labour in the fields; in winter, however, home industry occupies their days, and much of their beautiful handiwork is produced

*Photo, Kankovszky, Budapest*





# HUNGARIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMATE TAKING PART IN A RELIGIOUS PROCESSION

There are many legally recognized religions in Hungary, including the Roman and the Greek Catholic, the Evangelical, the Unitarian, the Greek-Oriental, the Gregorian-Armenian, the Baptist, the Jewish, and the Mahomedan religions. Among these there is perfect equality, each being independent in the administration of its own affairs, for the Hungarian State prides itself on the fact that religious toleration is one of its fundamental principles



## HUNGARY & THE HUNGARIANS

wage; the stratum of the population from which the intellectual workers have to be drawn suffers severely, and finds it exceedingly difficult to educate the younger generation to take up and carry on the torch of enlightenment.

This is really a much more serious matter than the transfer of certain territories which were under Hungarian rule to Czechoslovakia, Yugo-Slavia, and Rumania. The Magyars deeply resent what they call the "loss" of most of their mountainous regions. This is, however, scarcely more than a sentimental grievance, whereas the weakening of the intellectual life of their country would be a catastrophe very hard to repair.

While they were united with the Austrians under the Hapsburg Crown, a great deal was done in Hungary by Austrian initiative for the benefit of the people, especially in education. There was an excellent chain of schools for teaching trades, which included all kinds of carpentering and heavy metal work, with lighter occupations such as

basket-making, toy-making, clock-making, woodcarving, and, for girls, needlework and lace. Already in this and in other educational directions a lowering of standard is noticeable.

In general the Magyars have not the same sense of order and skill in management that the Austrians possess. This is forcibly impressed on those who take the steamers which make the delightful voyage down the Danube from Passau, in Bavaria, through Linz and Vienna to Budapest. Those which are in the hands of Austrian managers are admirably clean, and all things are well arranged for the comfort of passengers.

In the boats under Hungarian control there is an Oriental disregard of punctuality, convenience, tidiness, regularity. The saloon is filled all day long; those passengers who have had their meal must be forcibly ejected to make room for others still unfed; there is a close, smoky atmosphere; the stewards rush about, getting more and more damp and dishevelled, and, instead of arriving at the advertised



### RESPLENDENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HUNGARIAN ARMY

On the occasion of an important State or Church holiday, Hungary musters all her bravest and best to assist in the wide-spread celebrations, and the brilliancy of the cortège may be judged from this photograph. So picturesque is the national dress, that the Hungarian nobleman never fails to attract universal attention at ceremonial functions in foreign Courts





#### SUNDAY MORNING SCENE AT THE VILLAGE CHURCH

A colourful day is the Sabbath day in Mezökövesd, when the feminine population arrays itself in its best and brightest garments. In the wide skirts which swing from side to side in graceful folds as they walk, in the tight bodices, and with their neatly-coiffured heads, the girls resemble gaudy humming-birds as they flit about in the open, preparatory to attending divine service in the church

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*

hour, the steamers reach Budapest late at night, when there is a fierce rush for the few cabs on the quay, and a stream of disappointed and wearied people seeking their hotels in the darkness on foot.

Yet it is worth arriving by night to enjoy the beauty of Budapest after the lights have come out on the hillside of Buda, and all that is commonplace by day has been transformed into a fairy dream. Pest is the new city on the flat right bank; it has grown very quickly, has over a million inhabitants, and covers a very large area, for the reason that the building of houses, offices, or shops with more than two

storeys has been begun only within quite recent years. It is not a city that leaves on the visitor's mind memories of any vivid sort. It has none of the mingled beauty and impressiveness of Vienna. Some of its public buildings are large and ambitious in design, but none of them has any outstanding architectural merit. The streets are agreeably wide, and there are many good shops; but they are scattered amid others which are poor in appearance, so the general effect is not striking.

The best streets in this respect are down towards the Promenade, or Corso, along the river bank, where the most



## HUNGARY & THE HUNGARIANS

fashionable cafés and restaurants are grouped, and where chairs are set out row behind row in warm weather, to be filled by those who do not care to stroll up and down the roadway along which no traffic is allowed at any time of day or night. When a military band is playing in the afternoon, or when the Tzigane orchestras are performing in the cafés at night, this is a very pleasant place in which to walk and to meet acquaintances. The Park of Budapest is at the extreme end of the city, so it is little used for social purposes. The Corso is convenient and admirably adapted for the sitting and strolling of those who wish to see and be seen.

In the capital the women are mostly of a rather opulent, Oriental type—those, at any rate, who are most in evidence. You have to go into the country to see the pure Magyar charm of feature and complexion. On the Corso there is more to admire in the way of dress than of beauty, so far as

the women are concerned. There is as much smartness here as in Vienna, though not quite the same impeccable taste. The men are well-set-up and mostly good-looking; they like to fancy they look like Englishmen, but their quick, excitable way of talking prevents the illusion from lasting long. They even call their cafés “kavehaz,” in Budapest, under the impression that this is how coffee-house should be pronounced. Very fine rooms these places have, with innumerable newspapers and magazines, and seats outside on terraces, and all kinds of refreshing temptations as well as delicious Hungarian coffee.

At a certain time in autumn almost everyone has before him a huge slice of red pumpkin, iced and running with juice, as welcome an aid to getting through a hot day as could be imagined. And the days in autumn are hot, lovely, mellow days, that prolong the summer till October. Then there is a pause



TWO GAILY DECORATED STRINGS TO HIS BOW

The Hungarian Slovak has a natural inclination to agriculture and the breeding of cattle. He is by choice a herdsman or tiller of the ground, and by dint of hard work seldom fails to reap a plentiful harvest from the soil. These peasants of Csömör, near Budapest, although Magyarised, are of Slovak descent, and their distinctive raiment is not the least apparent of their racial characteristics

*Photo, Kankovszky, Budapest*



## HUNGARY & THE HUNGARIANS

before winter begins in earnest. In Budapest there is not generally a long or severe spell of cold weather, but on the Plain there are snow and ice in plenty, and all over the country people are glad when the spring begins and the sun shines with power again, which it does early in the year.

Summer or winter, spring or autumn, the sight of Buda by night is a perpetual joy. Opposite Pest the older town climbs up a steep hill, with the ruins of

world. There are waters of some value, too, on the Margaret Island, which lies in the Danube a little lower down and provides the people of Budapest with a place of entertainment something like the Wurstel-Prater in Vienna. It is a pretty spot on a summer evening, and those who prefer quiet to the insistent orchestras and the chatter of the crowd can find it easily by strolling a short way under the dusky trees. From here or from any part of the Pest



SIX MERRY SCHOOLBOYS SEATED IN A ROW

Hungary ranks high where charitable institutions are concerned, especially those connected with child-welfare. The State is the "over-parent" of every boy and girl born within its borders, and expends much anxious thought in its efforts to maintain health and happiness among the children. The jovial expressions of these small boys, so neatly clad and wearing the characteristic apron of the peasantry, would argue well for the parental care

*Photo, A. W. Culler*

a citadel on the top. Here for a century and a half the flag of the Crescent floated, and the Turks were in possession of most of the country until, in 1686, they were for ever driven out. Buda had been a city long before that. The Romans found a Celtic settlement there and turned it into an important place. There are still traces of an arena that held 20,000 spectators, of a theatre for 8,000, of temples and baths.

The rock was famous for its medicinal waters, which are still bottled here today. That called after the warrior Janos Hunyadi is known all over the

bank the myriad lights of Buda look exquisitely beautiful. The uninteresting royal palace on the hill can only be seen now as a pattern of gold dots on a cloth of black velvet. The modern ugly houses which have been allowed to deface the prospect by day are merely twinkling groups of yellow stars. The bridges which join the two parts of the city, the old and the new, have their chains of light reflected in the stream. The little steamboats which ferry passengers across and up and down move like constellations dropped from the sky. Thus the





#### GRACEFUL GIRLHOOD IN SUNNY HUNGARY

They are members of the peasant community of Kalocsa, a cathedral city and seat of a Roman Catholic archbishop, situated in the vicinity of the Danube, nearly seventy miles to the south of Budapest. Although not great churchgoers, the utterance of religious sayings comes very naturally to them, and in passing the time of day they often adopt some pious phrase as an appropriate salutation



#### "RING A RING O' ROSES" IN WIDE SWAYING SKIRTS

A peculiarly proud carriage and a graceful swinging gait are characteristics of these Hungarian women, who are descendants of a semi-Oriental stock. Often very beautiful in face and figure, the attractiveness of their appearance is enhanced by their traditional attire, which, seen in the full glory of its harmonious colouring, imparts an impression not lightly obliterated from the memory

*Photos, Kankovszky, Budapest*

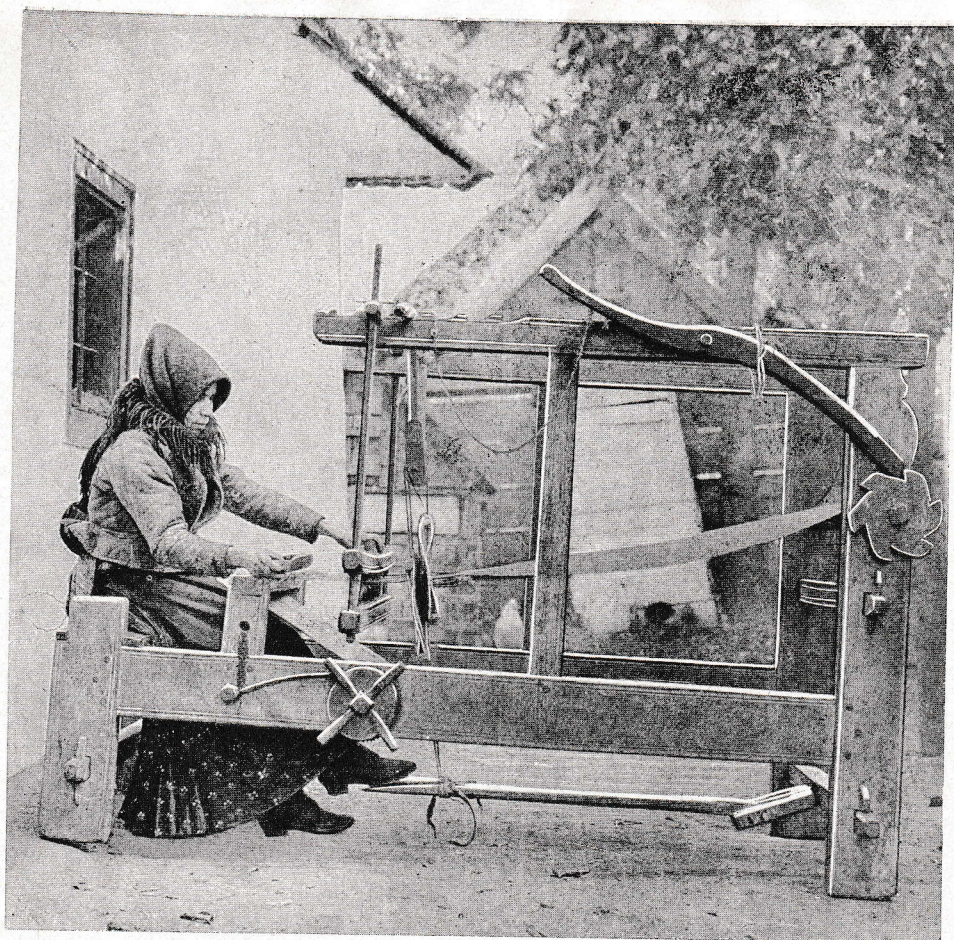




**HUNGARIAN GOOSEGIRL DRIVING HER FLOCK TO THEIR LAST DESTINATION: THE MARKET PLACE OF DEBRECEN** Possessed of a famous historical past, the town, sometimes called the Protestant "Rome," played an important part on the side of the Reformation, and was the Hungarian headquarters of Calvinism. It is now one of the largest provincial towns in Hungary, with a very high level of intellectual life and important industrial concerns.

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*





#### PONDEROUS WOODEN LOOM OF HUNGARY

Even in olden times the industries of the Magyars embellished many a palace and castle, and their pottery, embroidery, carpets, and ornamental leather-work were renowned in many large European towns. Constant struggles with overwhelming enemy forces greatly impeded industrial progress, but several of the artistic industries were preserved and developed in the homes of the peasantry

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*

situation of Budapest lends it a charm which never stales.

For some the city has attractions of a different order. It has the reputation of being the gayest capital in Europe, the term "gay" being used in a technical sense and implying vicious. That is probably quite an undeserved epithet. There is, however, one line of "gaiety" in which the Hungarian city is perhaps pre-eminent. If you want to lose money by gambling, you can do it here with the utmost ease. Every kind of facility is offered. There are magnificent card-playing establishments in which the company is aristocratic and the play high. Among the

magnates this passion is very common, and stories are told of fortunes being wrecked over the green tables, and men leaving the rooms in the morning light beggars who the night before were rich.

If you feel that you would soon be out of your financial depth in such society, there is a wide choice of less distinguished gambling saloons. Or, supposing cards do not tempt you, you can get all the excitement you want by taking lottery tickets. Not only is there a State lottery for big prizes, but all sorts of private enterprises solicit your attention, most of them connected with charity, some even with religion. Churches have been built out of the





**CONSERVATIVE PEASANTS WHO CLING TO ANCESTRAL CUSTOMS**  
 Mezökövesd, a market town of considerable importance, is inhabited by a people called "Matyók," a branch of the Palocz race. The peculiar tucks seen at the dress-waist of the woman on the right are stiffened with cardboard and covered with black velvet. As a small child she dressed in similar fashion, and if she lives to be a centenarian this queer style may still be seen on her

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*

proceeds of this form of gambling. Hospitals, schools, institutions for the relief of poverty and misfortune see nothing incongruous in raising funds by such means. Nor does there seem to be any reason why, if people will "have a flutter," they should not benefit some useful object instead of enriching private individuals. It will be long before the Magyars are cured of the idea that they are more likely to make a good living by the purchase of lottery tickets than by steady work. It will be long before the gambling mania can be shaken off. It goes with their careless optimism, their apologists say; with their love of taking chances; with their simplicity of

character. Traces of the same simplicity may be seen in the obligation upon all Hungarian subjects to belong, or to say that they belong, to some religious body. The State has long been the paymaster of all ministers of religion, Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish alike. The funds for this purpose are provided by a personal tax which no one is allowed to evade. Everyone must call himself something and pay his tax to whichever body he has chosen, even though he never attends a place of worship at all. The system seems to work well enough; it ensures, at any rate, religious equality.

There is less need in Hungary than in Britain for the upkeep of philanthropic





#### HANDSOME HANDIWORK OF THE HUNGARIAN PEASANTRY

Hungary abounds in natural beauties, and her rivers and lakes, her highlands and lowlands contribute their full share to the fascinating scenery. In her people, too, a great love of beauty prevails, and in the lowliest peasant home artistic skill is displayed in the fine embroideries on handspun garments and sheepskins and the decorative designs on the earthenware household utensils

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*

institutions by voluntary effort. The State does a great deal in this direction, and does it handsomely. Children are looked after with especial good sense and care. Machinery exists which is a long way ahead of that in England for protecting them from cruel or even harmfully thoughtless treatment on their parents' part. There are kindly homes for those who have lost their parents or have had to be taken from them; all who are in any way handicapped for the race of life are helped. In the wise handling of young people who have drifted into crime Hungary's plan could hardly be bettered. Thus you find a mixture, sometimes

puzzling, sometimes irritating, always interesting, of old-fashioned prejudices and customs with ideas of advanced progress. Many of these ideas they owe, it must be remembered, to the Austrians; but they are hardly likely now to let them go, for the Magyar is anxious to stand well with the rest of the world.

Hungarian patriotism finds expression in the literature of the country, notably in the works of Nicholas Zrinyi (1618-64), who wrote the national epic; and George Bessenyei (1747-1811), the herald of a literary awakening; while among Hungarian writers of fiction Sigismund Kemény (1814-77) and Maurus Jokai (1825-1904) won wide fame.



# Hungary

## II. A Thousand Years of Magyar History

By A. D. Innes, M.A.

Lecturer and Examiner in History and Literature

**H**UNGARY, formerly a portion of the Dual Monarchy or "ramshackle empire" familiarly known as Austria, is to-day an independent State, whose boundaries, as a consequence of the Great War, have been defined upon a nationalist basis, and encircle it between Yugo-Slavia on the south, Teutonic Austria on the west, Czechoslovakia on the north, and an expanded Rumania on the east. The dominant race in Hungary, the Magyars, are of a stock entirely different from that of any of the encircling States. Its area corresponds but roughly to that of the historical Hungarian kingdom which generally extended over territories now assigned to other nationalities.

The area itself has been occupied by the Magyar people for something over 1,000 years. The popular inclination to connect the name of Hungary with the Huns is entirely erroneous. It is a corruption of "Ugrian," the title by which the Magyar invaders were originally known.

### Turbulent Waves of Invasion

Apart from Trajan's military colony in Dacia, which was the beginning of Rumania, the Roman power never effectively penetrated beyond the Danube; nor did the barbarian tribes—presumably Slavonic—who were in normal occupation develop any organized attack on the Roman marches. In the third and fourth centuries, however, Goths from the north were making Hungary their base for threatening the Danube line, ejecting or dominating the Slavs. The fifth century saw the terrific incursion of the migrating Mongolian hosts of Attila and his Huns, who, however, vanished into space after Attila's death, and were heard of no more.

Slavs surged in again, only to be again subjugated in the seventh and eighth centuries by the Avars, of the miscellaneous central-Asiatic stock. The power of the Avars was broken by Charlemagne. Like the Huns, they disappeared, and once more a Slavonic power was being organized when, at the end of the ninth century, it was shattered by the Tartar Magyars, the Ugrians or Hungarians who, led by their mighty if somewhat mythical Khan Arpad, took permanent possession of the country and gave it their name.

The terms Mongolian, Tartar, and Turk are used, it may be remarked, for lack of any adequately distinctive titles of the far from homogeneous stocks from Central Asia which successively flooded into Europe by way of south Russia; stocks concerning which the only definite statement that can be made is that while they differed from each other materially, all were primarily nomadic hordes and none were Aryan.

### Magyars Masters of the Land

From the days of Arpad the Magyars were the masters of Hungary. For a time they threatened the Western Empire, but in the middle of the tenth century met their decisive overthrow at the hands of Otto the Great. From that time they ceased to be a menace to the West, accepted Christianity, and at a later stage became a bulwark of Christendom against Mongol and Turk, both before and after the final downfall of the Byzantine Empire. In fact, with their Christianising under their Khan or King Geza, they began, so to speak, to become good Europeans. Geza's son, S. Stephen, or Stephen the Great, was the very remarkable ruler (997-1038) who raised the Hungarian kingdom from barbarism to civilization. He was not only zealous in the spreading of Christianity and of Western ideas by the foreigners whose presence he encouraged; he imitated the system which Charlemagne had initiated in his empire of dividing his own kingdom under "counts," who were not hereditary rulers but royal officials. He could not, however, overcome the established conditions which made the Magyars proper a ruling caste, and kept the rest of the population in a subject position.

### Decay of the Arpad Dynasty

Under Stephen's successors (after an interval), Ladislas and Coloman (1077-1116), the borders of the Magyar kingdom were considerably extended, and its government was admirably conducted. But the later kings of the Arpad line degenerated; the effective power passed into the hands of the greater Magyar nobles, whose position had become hereditary. The disintegration was checked by King Bela IV. (thirteenth century) after Hungary had been devastated



## HUNGARY & ITS STORY

by the last great Mongol or Tartar deluge; but the ruin wrought thereby had been too destructive. The last of the Arpads could not maintain their authority, and at the beginning of the fourteenth century the crown of Hungary was bestowed on a foreign dynasty—a branch of the Angevin house which had recently been established in the kingdom of Naples.

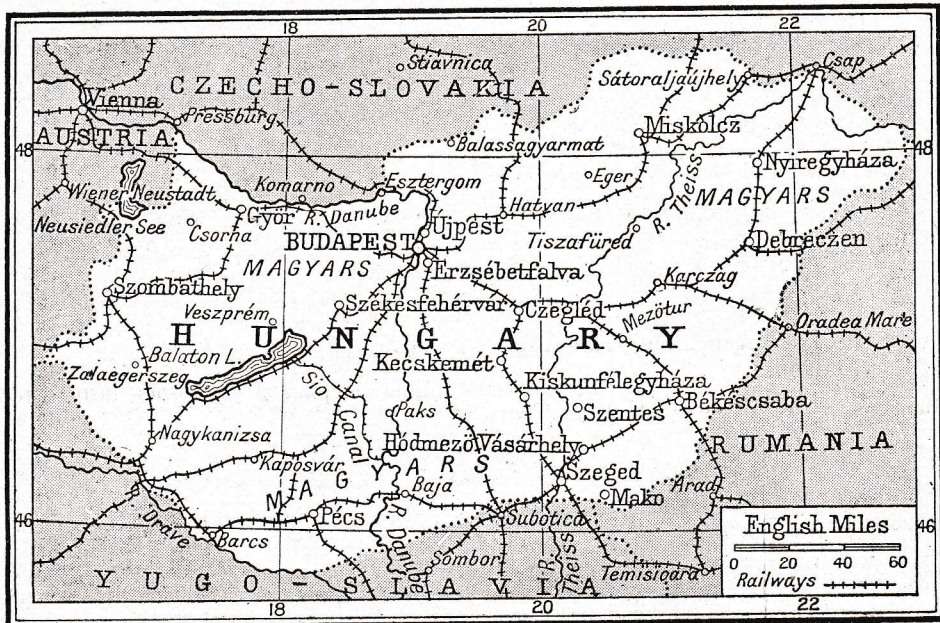
Charles Robert and his son Louis (1303-82), rulers of great ability, restored a strong and stable government on Western lines, the lines of French feudalism, developing the control of the crown over the great nobles, and the growth of the towns and of commerce, while they relied largely upon the aid of Italian and other foreign ministers. The royal family became closely associated with that of Poland, and from 1370 the two crowns were actually for a time united. During this period, however, the Ottoman Turks were beginning to establish themselves in the Balkan peninsula, and on the other hand the Angevin dynasty was weakened by the succession (1382) of Louis' two daughters to the crowns of Poland and Hungary respectively.

The marriage of one established the Jagellon dynasty in Poland; that of the other made Sigismund, best known in the West as a very unsatisfactory emperor, a very efficient King of Hungary. Single-handed, and with no support from the West, he held up the advance of the Turks under Amurath, or Murad II., and established the great fortress of

Belgrade, which, as long as it remained in Christian possession, was more than a thorn in the side of the Ottoman. But Sigismund, dying in 1437, was succeeded by his daughter's husband, Albert of Austria, who died two years later, to leave a disputed succession between his posthumous son Ladislas and Ladislas King of Poland, to whom the Hungarian nobles offered the crown.

During the troubled years which followed, the defence of Hungary against the Turk devolved upon the hero Janos Hunyadi, a gentleman of the southern marches who had risen to authority by sheer force of character and ability. His military achievements wrung from the Ottoman the peace of Szeged (1444), to which the *de facto* king Ladislas having assented, immediately broke. Ladislas was then killed in an overwhelming defeat at Varna, and Hunyadi, obviously the necessary man, was elected "governor" of Hungary. Before he died, in 1456, the Moslem tide was stemmed, though it had submerged Constantinople, and two years later Hunyadi's son Matthias "Corvinus" was unanimously elected king of Hungary on the death of the still youthful Ladislas "Posthumus."

The reign of Matthias was the most brilliant period of Hungarian history. On every side the young king's arms triumphed. In his father's day the Hapsburgs, as the guardians of young Ladislas, and the Bohemians, whose crown he also inherited from his father, had occupied the western and northern



THE MAGYAR STATE OF HUNGARY



## HUNGARY & ITS STORY

provinces of the Hungarian kingdom. Matthias drove both of them out, beat off the Turks, and organized not only a regular army under his own control, but also a great Danube flotilla. His troops and his very able finance ministers enabled him at once to present an invincible front to enemies on all sides, to restore an irresistible royal authority, to re-establish order and law, to rule with stern but unerring justice, and to revive the material prosperity of his kingdom; though, despite his own vigorous efforts for the development of intellectual culture, it barely touched the nobles, and was practically restricted to the greater clerics and a few of the minor gentry.

### Days of Glory under Matthias

He was working for great ends under difficulties which would have overwhelmed any less masterful personality, and though in his later years he was probably the most powerful potentate in Europe, the brief glory of Hungary was destined to prompt decay when his strong hand was withdrawn. His young heir was unable to retain his grip on the reins. The Magyar nobles wanted a king who would be their puppet, not their master, and in 1490 they elected the weak Ladislas of Bohemia, who promptly confirmed all their privileges and cancelled most of the salutary legislation of the great Matthias.

Chaos followed. The nobles acted after the fashion of the baronage of England in the nightmare reign of King Stephen. Each did what was right in his own eyes; together they made laws for the oppression of the peasantry. A fierce peasant rising in 1514 was brutally stamped out, like that in Germany a decade later, and the peasants were reduced to a condition of abject serfdom from which they never recovered. Ladislas died in 1516, and was succeeded by a child. The chaos grew worse. In 1521 the Turks captured Belgrade. Five years later they annihilated at Mohacs the hastily-summoned Hungarian levies.

### Defeat and Partition of Hungary

The young king was killed. The Turks retired after devastating a quarter of Hungary. John Zapolya, governor of Transylvania, was elected king, while the crown was claimed by Ferdinand of Austria (later emperor) in right of his wife, the dead king's sister. In effect Zapolya retained the crown by ceding a third of the kingdom to Ferdinand. There was some recovery, but Zapolya died, Ferdinand challenged the election of his infant son, the sultan intervened, and in 1547 Hungary was divided in three, the Turk annexing the biggest share

wedged in between the Hapsburg and Transylvanian dominions on the west and east respectively, Ferdinand being nominal suzerain of the "Prince" of Transylvania.

In the eyes of successive Hapsburgs, who became, in fact though not in form, hereditary emperors, their Hungarian kingdom was merely an unremunerative but inconveniently necessary buffer between Vienna and the Turk. They ruled from Vienna, and the Magyars were held in a wretched depression. Both here and in Transylvania Protestantism was prevalent; the Turks disregarded it, and the first Hapsburgs were tolerant. But the day of toleration passed. In the years immediately preceding and following the close of the century there were fierce persecutions and wars in which Magyar patriotism and Protestantism were in some degree identified. The temporary triumph of the imperialists, ruthlessly used and grossly abused, was reversed, and by the peace of Vienna (1606) Transylvania became in effect an independent Magyar State, the nominally elective "kingdom of Hungary" remaining practically an appanage of the Hapsburgs. Throughout the Thirty Years War (1618-48), Transylvania, under its vigorous princes Gabriel Bethlen and George Rakoczy, was a thorn in the side of the imperialists. In the kingdom of Hungary, on the other hand, the Magyars were held in a state of repression as, at best, potential rebels throughout the seventeenth century by their German rulers, who practically crushed out Protestantism.

### Hapsburgs Succeed to the Turks

In the third quarter of the century Magyar rebellion was headed by Tökölyi and stimulated the Turkish attack on Austria developed by the Kuprili Wazirs. Vienna was saved by the intervention of the great Pole, John Sobieski (1683). Prince Eugene's victory at Zenta (1697) and the resultant peace of Karlowitz (1699) expelled the Turks from all but a fraction of their possessions in Hungary; but though the Turks were expelled, the Magyars were more completely than ever reduced to subjection and repression by the Vienna government, and the struggle had again incorporated Transylvania with the rest of Hungary. Nevertheless, Magyarism was in continuous revolt during the first decade of the eighteenth century, and actually extorted from the Hapsburgs, embarrassed by the war of the Spanish succession, a formal recognition of the "ancient rights and liberties" of the Magyars. Another Turkish war finally cleared the Turks out of the Hungarian territories still held by them (Peace of Passarowitz, 1718).

The concession of the ancient rights and liberties did not mean constitutional



## HUNGARY & ITS STORY

independence, but it introduced a new atmosphere of comparative liberality on the part of the Hapsburgs and acquiescence on the part of the Magyars, which was accentuated by Hungarian loyalty to Maria Theresa in the war of the Austrian succession (1740-48). The queen and her sons, Joseph II. and Leopold II., were typical enlightened despots, who ruled with paternal benevolence but without allowing their subjects more than a consultative voice in the government. Hungary enjoyed a long reign of law, order, justice, and administrative reform, under which her prosperity recovered.

The Magyar nobility and gentry were treated with favour, and were not excluded from official positions. As a consequence, Hungary remained loyal through the great French wars (1792-1815). There, as elsewhere, however, the wars were accompanied by the infiltration of Liberal ideas and a renaissance of Nationalist sentiment, not only among Magyars, but also among the subordinate Slav populations of the south. Such doctrines, however, had little chance of active expression under the rule of Metternich, who directed the Austrian government under Francis II. and his successor, Ferdinand. Nevertheless, both Liberalism and Nationalism, inspired by Széchenyi, Deák, and the perfervid Louis Kossuth, were already assuming a prominence in the diets alarming to the Vienna authorities, when, in 1848, all Europe was flung into violent perturbations by a common revolutionary eruption.

Metternich fled. The imperial government, menaced everywhere with revolt—in Italy, in Bohemia, in Hungary, by Liberalism in Vienna itself—made immense concessions. But the Hungarian extremists, headed by Kossuth, went too far even for the moderate liberals, demanding complete independence. The government took heart; the rebels, successful at first, were crushed by the aid of the Russian Tsar. In the Austrian empire, as elsewhere, the reaction triumphed over the revolution, and exacted the penalty from Hungary with vindictive brutality.

Even then the results might have been very different but for the innate age-long hostility between Austria's Slav and Magyar subjects. The structure of the Austrian empire was desperately unstable; it was becoming obvious that concessions must be made to the diverse nationalities of which it was composed. The Italian and Prussian wars of 1859 and 1866 gave the finishing touches, and in 1867 the system known as the Dual Monarchy was established.

That system practically made the Austrian emperor also the constitutional king of Hungary, while it gave to the Magyars a position on an equal footing with the Germans in the councils of the united empire. It lasted till the final catastrophe of 1918, when that empire was disintegrated into its component parts, and Hungary became a separate Magyar state, shorn of its Slavonic provinces.

## HUNGARY : FACTS AND FIGURES

### The Country

New European State, bounded by Austria, Czechoslovakia, Yugo-Slavia, and Rumania. Area, 35,654 square miles; population, 1921, 7,840,830, of which 83 per cent. are Magyars.

### Government

Monarchy, under a regent, elected by National Assembly on March 23, 1920, when a government order was issued that the official title of the ministry was "Royal Hungarian Ministry." Representative bodies for communes, those for towns elected for six years with life officials. The counties and cities with communal rights are independent municipalities, with councils modelled on the representative bodies of the communes.

### Defence

Armed forces include National Army of 35,000, with voluntary enlistment for twelve years, six of which have to be with the colours; 12,000 police, 12,000 gendarmerie, and 4,500 customs guards, each with minimum of six years' service.

### Commerce and Industries

Chief industry, agriculture. Soil, fertile. Products: Wheat, rye, barley, oats, maize, tobacco, sugar, grapes, coal, wine, lignite, rock

salt, and precious metals. Cattle industry considerable. Milling, distilling, manufacture of sugar, hemp, flax, leather, textiles, iron and steel works carried on. Area under forest, 1,357,438 acres. Total imports in 1916 estimated at about £80,500,000; exports, £66,250,000. Unit of currency the kronen, normally 24.02 to the £, but quoted in December, 1922, at 10,000-11,000 to the £.

### Communications

Railways, 4,372 miles, of which 1,858 State-owned; telegraphs, 5,800 miles; navigable rivers, 687 miles.

### Religion and Education

All religions tolerated; but greater number of Magyars are Roman Catholics, with, however, large Protestant minority. Elementary education compulsory between ages of six to twelve years. In addition to extended facilities for secondary education, there are four State-maintained Universities.

### Chief Towns

Budapest, capital (1,184,600), Szeged (109,890), Debreczen (103,200), Kecskemét (72,760), Hód-mező-Vásárhely (60,850), Miskolcz (57,380), Ujpest (55,800), Kispeszt (50,200), Győr (50,000).





#### OPEN-AIR HUNGARIAN MOTHERS' MEETING IN PROGRESS

The Matyó women of Mezökövesd have a strange custom of "bolstering" their babies-in-arms. These immense pillows are of the softest down, covered with bright material often gorgeously decorated with fancy patterns in coloured silks and cottons. The young mother on the left seems fully aware that her person and pillow bear eloquent witness to her artistic taste and nimble fingers

*Photo, A. W. Cutler*



#### THREE GENERATIONS OF A MAGYAR PEASANT FAMILY

Hungary is one of the healthiest countries in Europe, and the Magyars are accounted as one of the handsomest races. Originally, they came from Central Asia, and, according to many a learned Orientalist, are of Turko-Tartar stock, mixed with the Finn-Ugrian branch of the Ural-Altaic family

The Magyars are a proud, high-spirited, brave, and hospitable people, of tall and athletic frame